



Congressman Dana Rohrabacher California's 46th District Bulletin

May/June 2010

Congressman Rohrabacher's District Offices

District Office

101 Main Street, Suite 380
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714/960-6483 office
714/960-7806 voice
310/377-9493 Toll Free from Long Beach
Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm

Conservation Corps Bldg.

340 Nieto Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90814
Office Hours
First, third & fifth Tuesday
10am to 5:30pm
And by appointment

Satellite District Offices:*

Palos Verdes

550 Deep Valley Drive, #355
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
Office Hours:
Second & fourth Wednesday
10am to 5pm
And by appointment



HELPFUL TIPS FOR SUMMER TRAVEL

Get through airport security faster:

- * Pack Smart - Prepare your 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag of liquids before arriving at the airport.
- * When in Doubt, Leave it Out - If you're not sure whether you can bring an item through the checkpoint, put it in your checked bag or leave it at home.
- * Be Prepared - Arrive on time with your boarding pass and identification easily accessible and be ready to remove your shoes so you don't hold up the lines.
- * For more information visit www.tsa.gov.

BOATING SAFETY & SURVIVAL TIPS



Before Shoving off:

- * File a float plan with a relative or friend.
- * Make sure the boat is in top operating condition with all safety equipment on board and in good condition.

On the Water:

- * Have a thorough knowledge of the weather forecast for the entirety of your voyage and keep an eye out for changing conditions.
- * Maintain a safe speed at all times to avoid collision.
- * Know and obey all federal and state regulations and waterway markers.

Visit California's National Parks:

- * Utilize the National Park Service website www.nps.gov to plan a summer vacation to one of California's ten National Parks.
- * Parks may be searched by location, name and history so that you may find a park enjoyable to you.
- * Safety information is provided at www.nps.gov along with helpful educational tools that offer some perspective on California's history and culture.



International Travel:

- * Whether you are traveling overseas for business, pleasure or study, the best way to ensure a carefree and relaxing trip is to prevent problems before they happen.
- * The more you learn about passports, visas, customs, immunizations and other travel basics, the easier international travel will be.
- * The US State Department provides tips for traveling abroad including, registration with embassies, safety issues, health issues, travel brochures and precautionary advisories.
- * Visit travel.state.gov for more information on planning.



UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION

If you are interested in applying to one of our nation's service academies, please contact Tony Capitelli, at (714) 960-6483 to learn more about the Congressional Nomination process. To be accepted into a service academy your application must be accompanied by a congressional nomination. Nomination packets are due on November 1, 2010.



**Satellite office space courtesy of Hon. Michelle Steel, SBOE and Hon. Gary DeLong, LB City Council*

CREDIT REPORTS



A new FTC rule can help people see through those confusing ads for “free credit reports” which often require individuals to buy credit monitoring or other services. Truly free credit reports are available at Annual-CreditReport.com. Under the amended Free Credit Reports Rule, ads for these so-called “free” credit reports must have clear disclosures. Consumers can learn more about their right to a free credit report under federal law at <http://www.ftc.gov/freereports>.



BEWARE OF CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATE SCAMS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation’s consumer protection agency, says consumers who get interest rate reduction calls from companies claiming to be able to negotiate lower interest rates with your credit card if you pay a fee should listen to them with extreme skepticism; many are scams.

These companies can’t do anything for you that you can’t do for yourself — for free. You have just as much clout with your credit card issuer as these companies, and you are just as likely to get turned down for a rate reduction regardless of their promises to negotiate on your behalf. Indeed, FTC investigators found that people who pay for these services don’t get the touted interest rate reductions, don’t save the promised amounts, don’t pay off their credit card debt three to five times faster, and struggle to get refunds.

RED FLAGS



Avoid any company that promises to settle your debt if it:

- Touts a “new government program” to bail out personal credit card debt.
- Guarantees unsecured debt will go away.
- Tells you to stop communicating with your creditors.
- Tells you it can stop all debt collection calls and lawsuits.

If you think you’ve experienced a credit card interest rate reduction scam, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at ftccomplaintassistant.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357).

VETERANS BENEFITS

Veterans will find it easier and faster to apply for their health care benefits now that the Department of Veteran Affairs has updated its online Form 10-10EZ, “Application for Health Benefits.” This revised online application provides enhanced navigation features that make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for their health care benefits. The most significant enhancement allows Veterans to save their application to their local desktop and return to the application at any time without having to start over.

Veterans may complete or download the 10-10EZ form at the VA health eligibility website at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez. Veterans may also contact the VA at 1(877)222-8387 (VETS) or visit the VA health eligibility website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

LEARN ABOUT MAKING HOMES AFFORDABLE

- Beware of anyone who asks you to pay a fee in exchange for a counseling service or modification of a delinquent loan.
- Scam artists often target homeowners who are struggling to meet their mortgage commitment or anxious to sell their homes. Recognize and avoid common scams.
- Assistance from a HUD-approved housing counselor is FREE. Visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/fc/> for more information.
- Beware of people who pressure you to sign papers immediately, or who try to convince you that they can “save” your home if you sign or transfer over the deed to your house.
- Do not sign over the deed to your property to any organization or individual unless you are working directly with your mortgage company to forgive your debt.
- Never make a mortgage payment to anyone other than your mortgage company without their approval.

Call 1-888-995-HOPE (4673) for help with the Making Homes Affordable Program and to speak with a HUD-approved housing counselor for free.



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT INTERNSHIP

Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-46th District) invites applications from hard-working, self-motivated college students for an unsalaried congressional internship in his Huntington Beach office. Successful applicants will gain valuable experience working alongside district staff responding to constituent requests for government documents, drafting casework correspondence, conducting research, managing databases and attending events. Applicants must have basic administrative skills and motivation to work hard in a small office environment.

How to apply: Send a cover letter, resume and one-page writing sample to Dana.Randazzo@mail.house.gov.

New Grants Available for Local Government

The Department of Homeland Security has announced \$790 million in new grants to further secure American transportation, emergency communications and to improve State issued driver’s licenses. These Grants can be applied for in order to improve port security, freight and passenger rail lines, inner-city bus facility and driver safety, buffer zone programs to augment localities that have important infrastructure sites and key resource assets such as power plants and chemical manufacturing. More Information on available grants can be found at www.fema.gov/grants or www.dhs.gov.